DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 365 757 UD 029 652

AUTHOR	Schaafsma, David
TITLE	Eating on the Street: Teaching Literacy in a Multicultural Society.
REPORT NO	ISBN-0-8229-3758-1
PUB DATE	15 Dec 93
NOTE	250p.
AVAILABLE FROM	University of Pittsburgh Press, 127 North Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260 ($35).
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Cultural Influences; Disadvantaged Youth; Economically Disadvantaged; *Educational Methods; Elementary Education; Elementary School Students; Ethnic Stereotypes; Inner City; *Intercultural Communication; *Literacy Education; Minority Groups; *Multicultural Education; Personal Narratives; *Urban Education; Urban Youth; *Writing (Composition)
IDENTIFIERS	Dewey Center Community Writing Project MI; Diversity (Student); Michigan (Detroit); Student Empowerment

ABSTRACT

This book examines, via a case study involving fifth, sixth, and seventh graders: (1) the struggle of teaching literacy in a racially divided society, (2) the importance of story and storytelling in the educational process, and (3) how storytelling is an interactive experience for both the teller and listener. In addition, the book reveals how cultural values and cultural differences affect education in today's American schools. The book describes the history of the Dewey Center Community Writing Project in Detroit's (Michigan) inner city and offers samples of the students' writing about their lives in a troubled neighborhood, as well as the teachers' versions of events and their personal histories and work as educators. These stories illustrate how talking across multiple perspectives can enrich the student's learning process as well as the community-building process outside the classroom. (Contains over 175 references.) (GLR)

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